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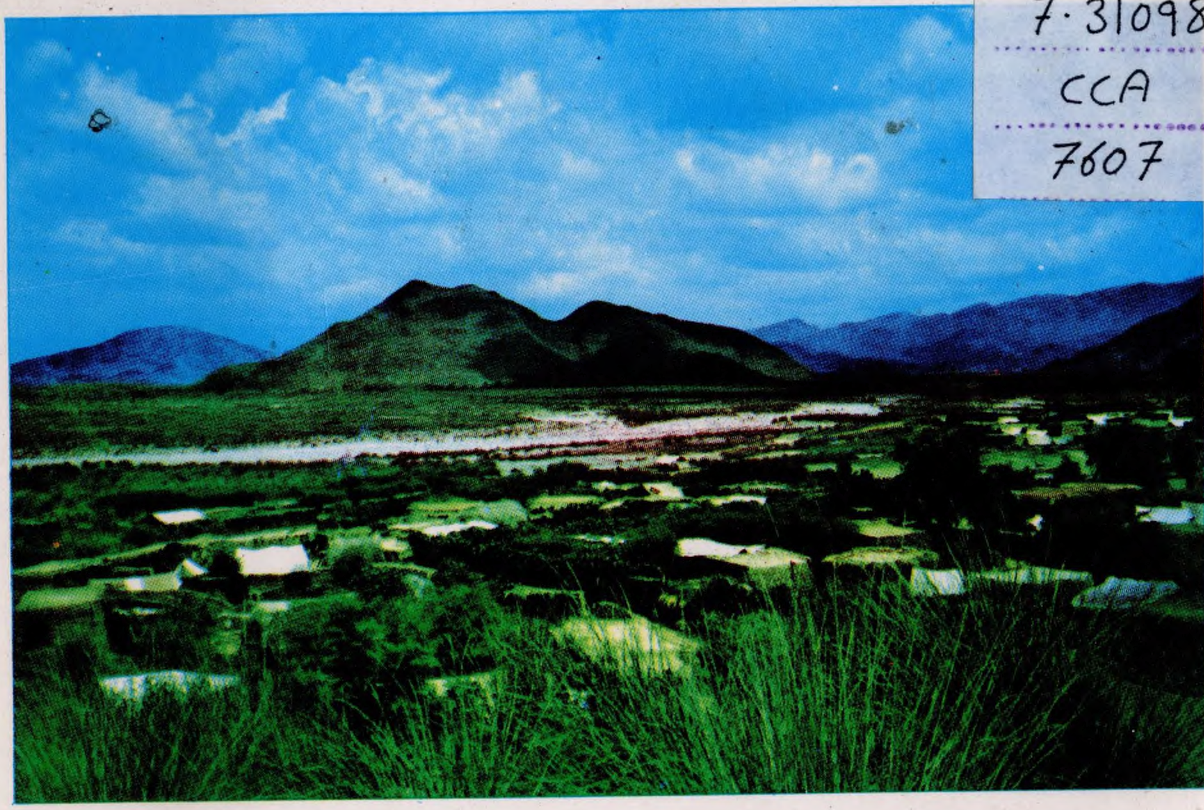
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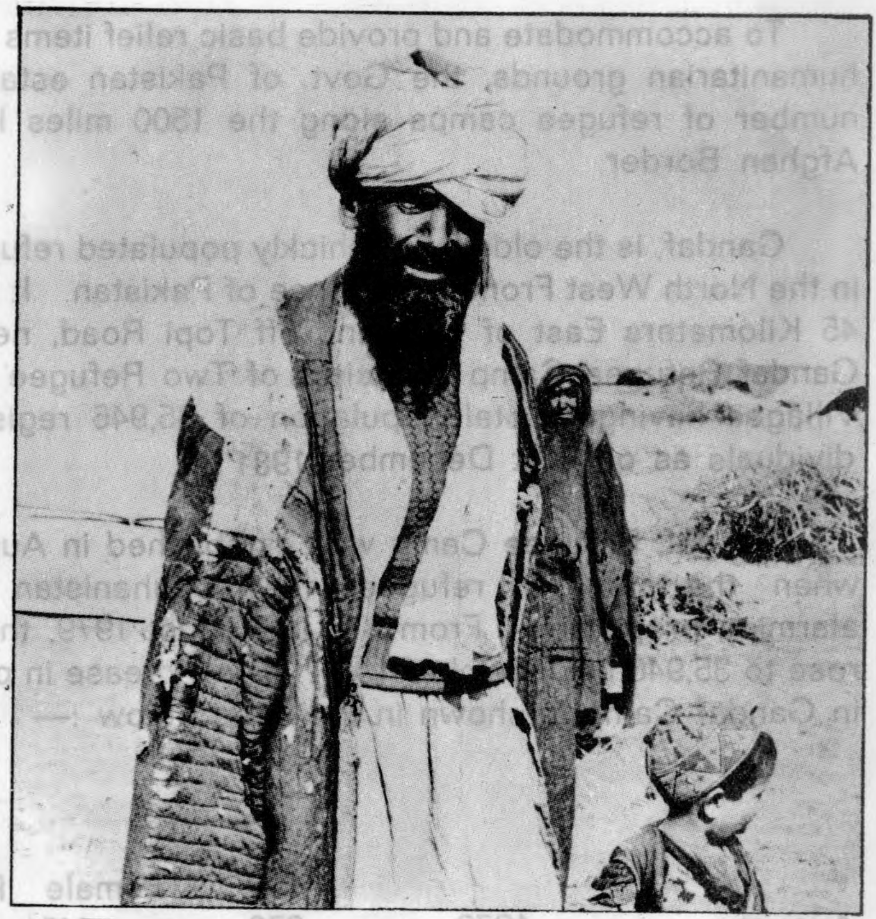


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GANDAF REFUGEES CAMP.

The population of Afghanistan is estimated to be 17 million spread over an area of 253861 square miles having 1500 miles common border with Pakistan.

The flight of the courageous Afghan people from their homes is a natural phenomonon. The Soviet sponsored revolutions is Afghanistan with the direct Soviet armed intervention compelled the people of Afghanistan to migrate and seek refuge in Pakistan. The Political, Social, Cultural and Religious supression coupled with ruthless attitude of Kabul Administration and the Alien forces created an atmosphere of complete insecurity and general scare and it become impossible for them to stay in their homeland.



The first batch of Afghan refugees which crossed over to Pakistan in 1976 (during Daud's Regime) was 1,500. This number rose to 18329 by the end of December, 1978. Afterwards the trickle developed into a torrent and by 31st Dec., 1981, the number rose to 1953913 in the North West Frontier Province.



To accommodate and provide basic relief items on purely humanitarian grounds, the Govt. of Pakistan established a number of refugee camps along the 1500 miles long Pak-Afghan Border.

Gandaf, is the oldest and thickly populated refugee camp in the North West Frontier Province of Pakistan. It is located 45 Kilometers East of Mardan off Topi Road, near Topi. Gandaf Refugee Camp consists of Two Refugee Tentage Villages having a total population of 35,946 registered individuals as on 31st December 1981

Gandaf, Refugee Camp was established in August 1979 when the inflow of refugees from Afghanistan assumed alarming proportion. From 818 in August 1979, the number rose to 35,946 in December 1981. The increase in population in Gandaf Camp is shown in the chart below :—

		Male	Female	Total Population
August	1979	376	442	818
December	1979	843	1058	1901
June	1980	3256	3451	6707
December	1980	8841	8275	17,116
June	1981	17,189	16307	33,496
December	1981	17,931	18015	35,946



To facilitate proper administration and speedy distribution of relief assistance, Two RTV's (Refugees Tentage Villages) have been established in the camp. Each RTV constitute the basic administrative unit looking after a minimum of 5000 Refugees or 1000 families. An RTV is placed under the RTV Administrator who is responsible in all respects for the Administration, welfare, discipline, distribution of Cash maintenance allowance and other relief items etc. of refugees in the R.T.V. The RTV Administrator is assisted by the staff working under him which consists of six section, viz, Admn: Registration, Food, Relief, Accounts and Security Sections.



ETHNIC COMPLEXION OF THE CAMP.

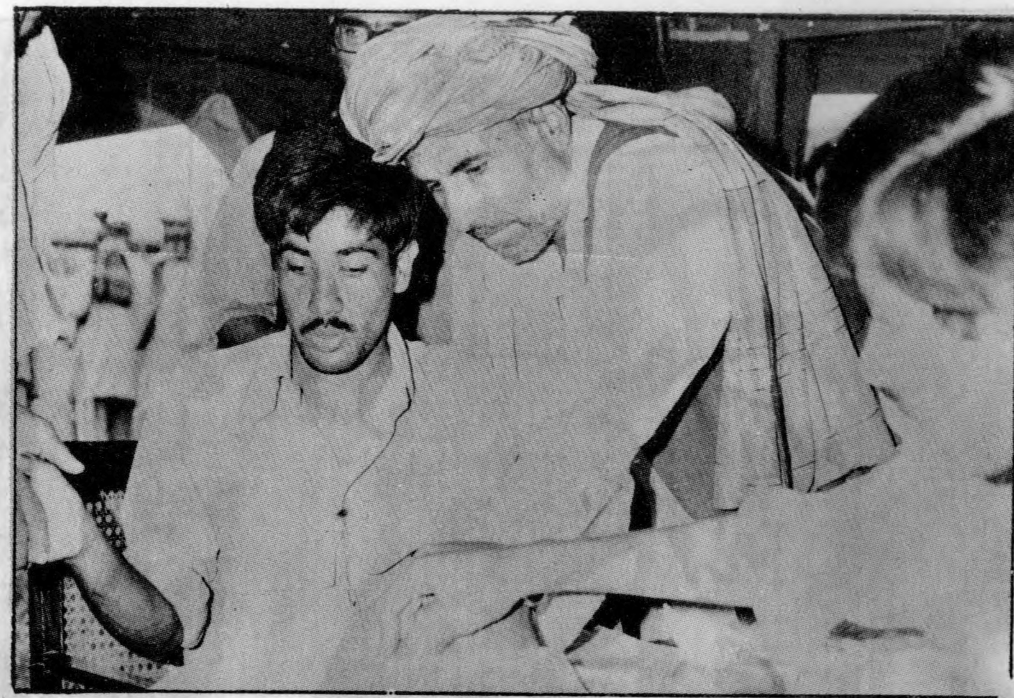
The Afghan Refugees have come from different provinces of Afghanistan and the main tribal grouping are Nooristani, Tajiks, Mishwanis, Salarzai, Kohistani, Gujars, Badakhshi, Safi, Ahmedzai, Shinwari, Mamund, Mohmand, Khogayani, Ghilgai, Hazara, Mangal, Jaji, Zadran, Sabri, Suleman Khel, Qandaharis, Uzbeks and Turkmans. In this particular camp the refugees are from the Pushto speaking tribes of Afghanistan in the proportion explained below:-

S.No.	TRIBE	PROVINCE	POPULATION
1.	Ahmed Zai	Kunner/logar	7,163
2.	Masood	Kunner/Kabul	12,208
3.	Gurbaz	Kunner/Kabul	4045
4.	Wazir	Kunner/Kabul	7,579
5.	Mamund	Kunner/Kabul	2.050
6.	Shenwari	Kunner/Kabul	2,561
7.	Baber Khel	Kunner/Kabul	340

Being in the Refugees Camps in Pakistan, the refugees still observe their own traditional laws and implement them through the Jirga system. The decisions made in Jirga by the elders of the tribes are acceptable to all.

RELIEF ASSISTANCE

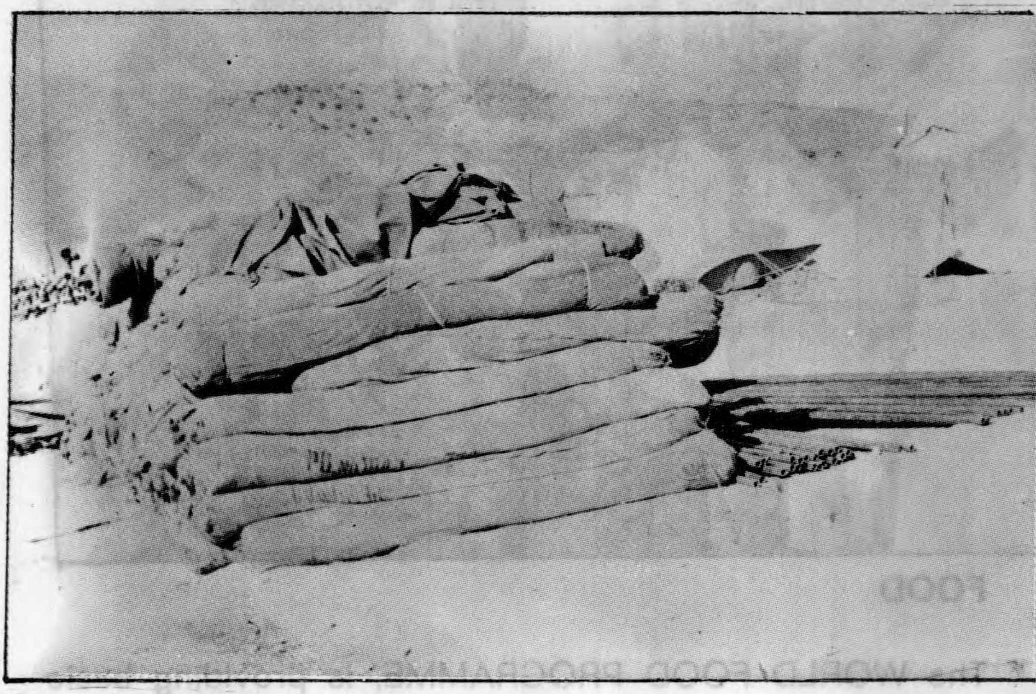
During the initial stages of refugee influx, relief assistance consisted mainly of cash subsidy (Rs. 120.00 per head per month) and provision of tents for shelter and only the Govt. of Pakistan bore the burden of refugees care single handed during this period. In the beginning of 1980, two major U.N. Agencies the UNHCR & W.F.P. produced their programme of assistance. Later, some other UN Agencies like UNICEF, WHO & FAO also joined and are providing assistance in their respective fields. The relief operation have received additional contribution from some of the International Voluntary Agencies and a number of friendly countries. The main financial assistance has been provided by the UNHCR whose representatives work in the entire province and coordinate with the functionaries of the Commissionerate at various levels.



The relief assistance may be categorised as under:-

1. **CASH MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE**

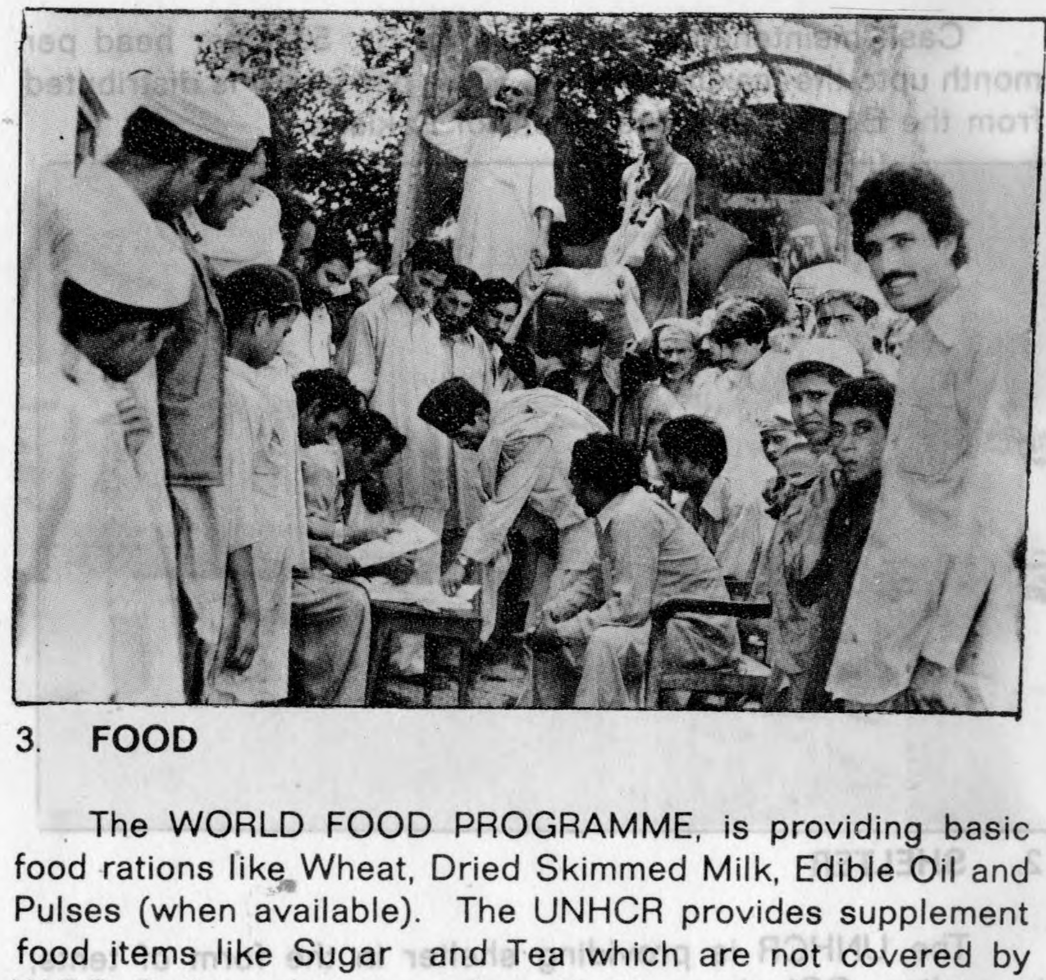
Cash maintenance allowance @ Rs. 50/- per head per month upto the maximum of Rs. 500/- per family is distributed from the Budget of Government of Pakistan.



2. **SHELTER**

The UNHCR is providing shelter in the form of tents, tarpaulins, CGI sheets and other construction material for temporary mud huts. One tent of 180 lbs accommodate 5 to 7 persons. Temporary mud huts are encouraged to avoid the rigours of extreme wheather.





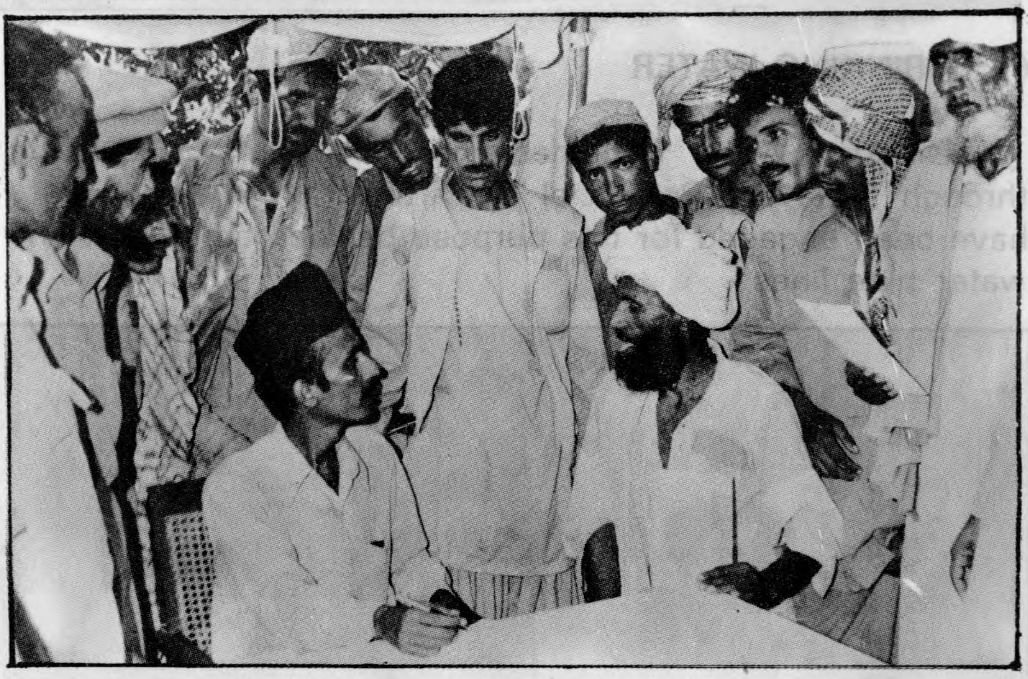
3. FOOD

The WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME, is providing basic food rations like Wheat, Dried Skimmed Milk, Edible Oil and Pulses (when available). The UNHCR provides supplement food items like Sugar and Tea which are not covered by W.F.P. Daily per capita scales of rations supplied are wheat 500 grams per head per day, pulses 40 grams, E/Oil 30 grams, Dried Skimmed Milk 30 grams, Sugar 20 grams, Tea 3 grams, Salt 2½ grams per head per day.

4. CLOTHING AND BEDDING

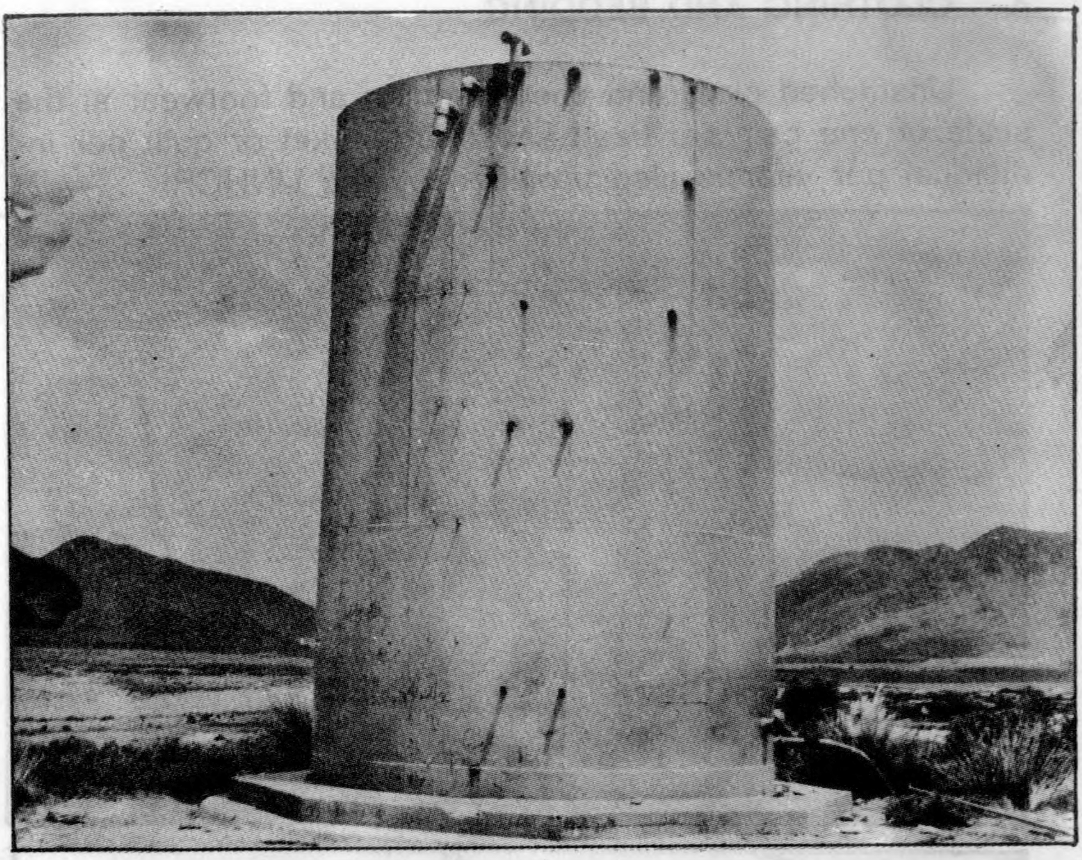
Unstitched cloth and used clothing and footwear at the scale of one pair per head and one blanket or quilt per individual per year is also provided by the UNHCR.





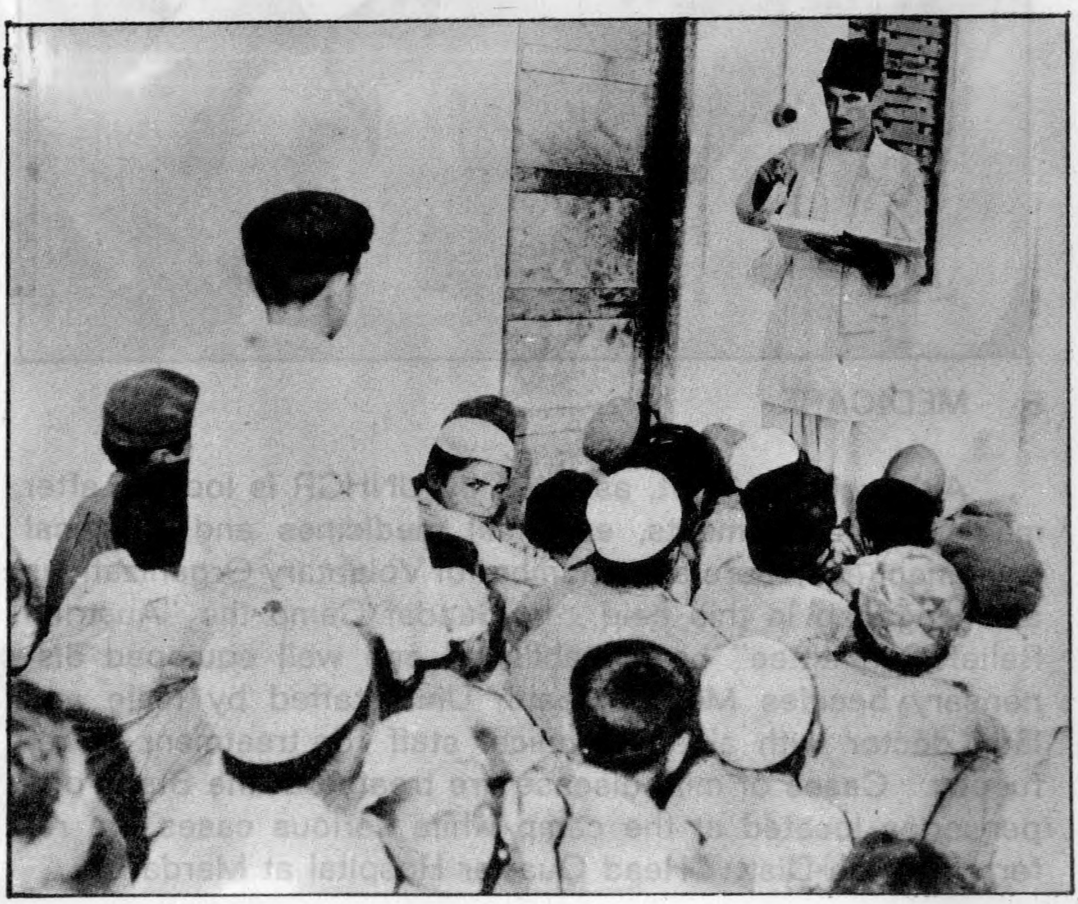
5. MEDICARE

Although the Govt, assisted by UNHCR is looking after medical establishments, essential medicines and medical equipment etc., there are a number of Voluntary Organizations also engaged in this field. In Gandaf Camp the "Austrian Relief Committee" has established one well equipped dispensary besides Mobile Health Unit staffed by male and lady doctor with allied technical staff for treatment of refugees. Cases of mild disease are treated at the Static dispensaries located at the camp while serious cases are referred to the Distt: Head Quarter Hospital at Mardan.



6. DRINKING WATER

Drinking Water Schemes are undertaken by UNICEF through relevant Provincial Departments. Water tankers have been engaged for this purpose besides tube wells and water pipe lines.



7. EDUCATION

The Gandaf Camp has been provided with four Primary Schools for Afghan Refugees Children. Three teachers for each school (one Pakistani and two Afghan) with sufficient stationery, text books etc., have been provided. The total number of students at the moment is 427. Besides, Primary Schools atleast one Religious Teacher from amongst the Afghans is also provided for each village alongwith necessary material in the Central Mosque of the Village. The Education Cell headed by the Addl: Commissioner of A.R. Commissionerate is looking after the Primary Education of Afghan Refugees Children.

8. LIVE STOCK

Other items not covered above are the live stock and Veterinary cover, Hygine and Sanitation which include sanitary Inspector with necessary spraying equipment and chemicals for periodical sprays.

9. MOSQUES

Two mosques in each village have been set up to facilitate the refugees in the performance of their religious obligations.

10. COOKING OIL STOVE AND KEROSENE OIL

To save the forest whealth, each Refugee family has been supplied with one Oil stove, one Plastic container of 10 liters each. They are also provided with 9 liters of Kerosene Oil per family per month. The funds for this project have been provided by the UNHCR.



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AFGHAN REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN

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THE OLDEST CAMP

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